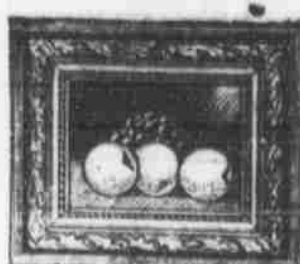




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Underground Silo Cheap and Big Money Saver for the Farmers of New Mexico

Assistant Agricultural Demonstrator of Santa Fe Points Out Economy and Great Advantage of Device Rapidly Coming Into General Use.

(By H. C. McGovern, Assistant Agricultural Demonstrator of Santa Fe Railroad.)

For the benefit of the few who may be uncertain what is meant by the term, a silo is a compartment, usually cylindrical in form, having air tight walls, whose diameter is approximately one-half its height. The purpose of the silo is to store and preserve green fodder cut into about three-quarter inch lengths, which material (now ensilage) is fed to stock during the winter season upon there is no green grass or green pasture.

We will discuss only the underground type of silo because it is the most practical and practicable kind for the dry farmer of this part of the country. It is not claimed that the underground type is better than the more common above ground silo, but we advocate the "hole in the ground" because the cost factor of the above ground silo prohibits the average homesteader from having one. And the homesteader must have a silo—he has got to adopt it. "Get a silo or get out" will soon be the popular adage among non-irrigating farmers in the arid southwest.

These are the reasons for the above assertion: New Mexico homesteaders can only succeed or even manage to stay in the country by going into dairy or stock farming. Due to the difficulty of raising enough feed every year for the number of stock that will have to be kept, great economy in utilizing feed will have to be practiced. There exists no greater economical factor in modern agriculture than the silo. It saves under New Mexico conditions from 20 to 35 per cent more feed than the ordinary method of stacking in the field. Milk cows are kept to their maximum of milk flow in the winter when butter-fat brings about one-third more per pound than in the summer. For insurance against failure, you Mr. Dry Farmer are urged to dig a silo. With a silo you are insured in two ways. First, when you have a good year or a series of good years store a part of the bumper crop in one quite large silo or two or three smaller ones. The ensilage will keep indefinitely. Keep it intact until the dry years come and you will not have to buy feed for your milk cows, hogs or work stock. Second, in the dry year when the best crop possible to raise is immature fodder about waist high, there is no need to let this feed burn up in the field or if cut just make poor roughage. If you have a silo you can cut that feed green before it burns up and put it in, saved in that way it will equal your ordinary matured crop when stacked in the field. So it will be seen what an efficient weapon to fight failure is the silo.

Now, taking up the subject from the viewpoint of the farmer who desires to know how to go about getting a silo: The first calculation consists in ascertaining the actual number of animals at present owned or to be owned in the next year or so. This is to determine the size of the silo. Count on each head of grown stock consuming 20 pounds of silage per day for six months. Cows and calves will eat 12 to 20 pounds per day or less, and hogs probably 10 pounds. Divide the total number of pounds of silage needed for the 180 days by 2,000 to determine the amount in tons. If you need 20 tons of silage dig a silo 10 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep; 30 tons, 8 feet in diameter and about 20 feet deep. (For reference to information on other dimensions see end of article.)

Having decided on the size of the silo, you are ready to select a spot adjacent or convenient to the barn or feed lot, and go to work. For ten feet no windlass is necessary and there need not be any expense for digging until this depth is reached. But remember this hint: If you start to cement from the top when 6 feet down and then cement another layer at 12 feet and so on you can eliminate the trouble and expense of scaffolding in the hole. The thickness of the cement lining necessary varies from three-quarters to one and one-half inch. W. H. Nicklas, 13 miles east of Elida used cement plaster of two strengths on his silo. For the first application he used five parts of sand to one part of cement, and for the last coat he increased the cement to one part to two, and one-half of sand. In this way was required one pound of cement to every 2.22 square feet of lining. His silo is 8 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep, and he used 45 pounds of cement. The price of the cement varies from 75c to \$1.00 per hundred pounds.

The proper way to finish the lining, whether two strengths or one strength of plaster is used, is to caluminate the wall with cement wash. Then the walls will be absolutely air tight.

A windlass over the hole is the simplest way of raising the dirt. An easier method for handling the silage bucket at the top of the hole though requiring a little more mechanical ingenuity is to erect a strong pivot pole, using about 6x6 material, about 3 feet from the edge of the hole. From this extend over the hole a horizontal piece supported by an oblique piece leading from the end of the horizontal support to the top of the pivot pole. On the outer end of the horizontal support which should be over the center of the hole, fasten a pulley wheel. The dirt bucket, then, runs through this pulley. The bucket can be raised by a windlass placed in front of the pivot pole on the side of the hole or by means of a horse on the end of the rope. Whatever the

device for raising the dirt, leave it in place and use it to draw out the ensilage when you feed.

Having dug the hole and cemented it—not necessary to cement the bottom—wait until the crop is in the proper stage to cut and store in the hole. The proper stage is when the crop—corn, milo, kafir, etc., is in the hard dough—no more mature than that and no less mature if possible. The operation of cutting the crop from the field and running it through the ensilage cutter should be executed simultaneously. This requires a force of several hands, but the neighbors can exchange help and manage it very well.

To fill a silo requires no especial skill and involves no risk of losing feed if farmers will bear one principle in mind. The ensilage must be distributed evenly as it falls in the hole, and it must be packed firmly. Two or three men, or a horse let down in an ordinary sized silo, will be required to do the packing thoroughly. When full it is well to weight down the surface with planks or rocks or throw water on the top so as to seal it and prevent air from penetrating more than 6 inches to one foot.

Taking out the ensilage and feeding it is also a simple matter if the owner observes this one rule. Feed an even layer two inches deep, according to the size of the herd, off the top every day. The air will penetrate about six inches, but it will take three or four days for the exposed silage to spoil. If fed off evenly every day there will be no chance for that. Of course, when starting to feed, the spoil layer of about 8 inches on top will have to be removed. One can begin to feed any time after filling. Should it be desired to quit feeding for a while, merely wet the top of the silage to facilitate sealing and remove the spoil upper layer when feeding is resumed.

There will be no trouble in getting stock to eat the ensilage as experience will prove. However, as in the case of any new feed, begin with a small amount and gradually increase the allowance up to the 25 or 30 pounds of the regular amount. In silage in the eastern states is given to the stock during the winter half of the year beginning October 1st. But it is believed that in New Mexico most of the ensilage feeding will begin about December 1st and be continued until about the first or middle of April.

Finally we will discuss the cost of the underground silo. Information on this matter is quite limited. There are only eight underground silos in New Mexico that have come under the attention of the writer. The cost of these that it has been possible to get information on is as follows:

R. K. Odel, Wagon Mound—Capac-

HERE'S WHAT HE WANTS

That man who is so hard to buy for—he'll be tickled with something from this list.



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QUALITY GIFTS FOR PEOPLE OF TASTE

MANICURE SETS

These are the worth-while kind of Manicure Sets—all metal parts of finest steel and expertly shaped. Mounted in silver, bone and mother of pearl—\$2.00 to \$10.75 the set.

SAFETY RAZORS

These are ideal gifts for men. We have the Gillette, Auto-Strip and Gem Razors.

PARISIAN IVORY

When we say Parisian Ivory, we mean the genuine imported article. It's the most beautiful of all mountings for toilet articles.

PERFUMES

The largest line of the most exquisite Perfumes in artistic Christmas packages.

XMAS CANDIES

Get your order in early for Special Xmas Candies.

Powell Drug Co.

FOURTH AND CENTRAL

ity, approximately 100 tons; size, 14 feet in diameter, 35 feet deep. Costs \$127 including hired labor and all materials. The outlay for labor amounted to \$66.

J. A. Wallace, Clovis, is out just 320 besides his own labor to dig and cement a 30-ton silo 1923.

W. H. Nicklas, Red Lake, spent approximately \$24 in digging a 22-ton silo and filling it.

R. A. Peniston spent only \$21 in digging and filling a 30-ton silo, but he did all the work and cementing himself.

So it will be seen that the approximate cost of underground silos is \$1.00 per ton of capacity.

The ensilage cutter is really the main item of expense. C. M. Street of Clovis bought a Smalley cutter for \$150 laid down. It cuts at least 100 tons in a working day. R. K. Odel's \$115 cutter keeps three corn harvesters busy and will cut about 100 tons per day. But there are two farmers in southeastern New Mexico who have solved the cutter problem with much less money. Each of these men sent to Montgomery Ward and company and got a cutter of 30-ton per day capacity for \$27.50 laid down. A horse power runs this small cutter very satisfactorily. If the farmer does not own a horse power or a small gasoline engine he can borrow or rent one at harvest time each year.

All readers of this article are advised to watch for the publication of the 1912 report of the Santa Fe Agricultural Demonstrator, J. D. Tinley. Albuquerque, N. M. This report is in bulletin form and will contain among other valuable data on New Mexico dry farming, a detailed treatment of the silo and all subjects in connection. This bulletin will be ready for distribution on June 1st, 1913. Santa Fe Agricultural Bulletin No. 7, already published and obtainable on application to J. D. Tinley, also contains valuable data such as sizes and dimensions of silos corresponding to given sized herds.

Santa Claus Ordered Off Streets.
Kansas City, Dec. 16.—To protect the happy illusion of the city for children, the police of Kansas City, Kan., today ordered that Santa Claus must stay off the streets there.

"The practice of stores sending out men dressed up in Santa Claus suits has become obnoxious," said Judge J. L. Carlisle, of the municipal court, today. "Besides, children, whose parents never could afford to buy them expensive toys would meet Santa Claus on the street, shake his hand and request that he deliver a great number of toys to their homes."

"Sure I'll bring them to you," the obliging Santa would say, but when Christmas morning came, there would be only disappointment."

Just received—New lot of Navajo Rugs. Clarke's Curio Store.

Stepmother to Own Daughter.
London, Dec. 16.—Here's one for Americans who are fond of figuring out family relations: Simultaneously the father of a bride who was married at Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, married the mother of the bridegroom.

On the same occasion the father's other daughter was also married. The contracting parties were:

James Bridges, 56 years old, widower, and Mrs. Margaret Lovelace, 49 years old, widow.

Miss Rose Lovelace, 22 years old, and William Lovelace, 24 years old.

Miss Ada Bridges, 26 years old, and Leonard Bailey, 24 years old.

The younger two brides are James Bridges' daughters, and William Lovelace is the son of the eldest bride. James Bridges Jr., had the remarkable experience of giving away his two sisters to their respective husbands and his future stepmother to his father.

The Affidavit, long acknowledged the best Havana cigar in the southwest. A box of them will make a fine Christmas gift. Henry Westerfeld, maker.

A Des Moines man had an attack of muscular rheumatism in his shoulder. A friend advised him to go to Hot Springs. That meant an expense of \$150 or more. He sought for a quicker and cheaper way to cure it and found it in Chamberlain's Liniment. Three days after the first application of this Liniment he was well. For sale by all druggists.—Adv.

LORD LANDSDOWNE NEW LEADER OF UNIONISTS

Conference Makes It Clear in Case Government Changes Bonar Law Will Not Be at the Helm.

London, Dec. 16.—At the autumn conference of the National Unionist association, when the platform of the Unionist party was confirmed, it was made very clear that should there be a change of government in the United Kingdom, the task of forming the cabinet would fall upon the shoulders of Lord Lansdowne and not upon Bonar Law.

During the past few months, as all the fighting has been in the house of commons, and attention has been attracted to that house more than to the house of lords, Unionists as well as Liberals have come to regard Bonar Law as actually, if not technically, leader of his party, as well as of that part of it which sits in the house of lords. At the conference, however, it was Lord Lansdowne, not Mr. Law, who was chosen to make the important announcements in regard to the policy of the party, a duty which invariably falls to the leader of the party. Mr. Law, it will be remembered, was chosen leader of the Unionists in the commons when Mr. Balfour retired, but, unlike his predecessor, Mr. Law was not chosen leader of the party. In the American sense he is simply floor leader in the lower house, and he obtained that position because the Conservative and Liberal Unionist elements of what is now known officially as the Unionist party could not compose their differences and elect either of their leaders, Austen Chamberlain or Walter Long, to the place. Bonar Law has not been a great success as a leader, and therefore the action of the national convention in making clear that he was not the leader of the party in the commons. Mr. Law's direct manner pleases and attracts the younger element in his party. The great bulk of the old-time conservatives, however, prefer the old, quiet style of which Mr. Balfour was the exemplar, and while they do not openly oppose, they privately object to the somewhat exaggerated views expressed by Mr. Law on what will happen in Ulster if home rule is passed, for example, or his support of the noisy interrupters in parliament, who the other evening pelleted the prime minister with paper and in other ways acted in a manner unbecomingly members of parliament.

The assumption by Lord Lansdowne of the leadership of the party also indicates that his health, which last summer it was feared had broken down, has since greatly improved.

It was also rather marked that at the convention no mention was made of the referendum that was to precede the introduction of tariff reform, or tariff for revenue only, should the Unionists be returned. During the last election Mr. Balfour, who is not a very ardent tariff reformer, was induced by what is known as the advisory committee of the party, consisting of three London editors, to say that should the Unionists succeed in the election the question of tariff reform would be referred to a vote of the people. Bonar Law, who at the time was running for a Manchester constituency, where tariff reform is not popular, and generally all the leaders and active members of the party took up the idea and in this way brought many Unionist free traders back into the fold. Joseph Chamberlain, the chief apostle of tariff reform, and his son, Austen Chamberlain, were the only prominent Unionists who repudiated the idea of a referendum, and declared, so far as their influence went, the return of the Unionists would mean the immediate introduction of a measure embodying the policy for which they had fought. Now the party in convention has

adopted their view of the matter.

The other planks of the party platform were thus outlined by Lord Lansdowne:

"Restoration of the British constitution, by which he meant the repeal of the parliament act, which deprived the lords of their power of veto and the substitution of a measure reforming the upper house."

"The maintenance of the union with Ireland so long as she remains part and parcel of us."

"The efficiency of national finance. A land policy not based on class hatred. We desire the cultivation of the land to better the lot of those who cultivate it, notably by increasing the number of those interested in it as owners of the soil."

LET IT SLIP AND WAS RUINED FOR LIFE

What's the matter? Why are you letting this opportunity slip through your fingers? Don't you know that there is in the thriving business world opportunity is waiting for trained men and women? How much longer will you stand aside and make excuses? Aren't you afraid that if you put it off to another time that something will arise between you and then to prevent you from getting this training?

Stop making excuses and delaying! Invest your points—invest your powers while you have a chance.

Tick-tock! tick-tock! Your chance is slipping by. Use your gifts—develop your latent talents—gain the ambition, training, skill-creating, confidence-boosting training we stand ready to give while you have the chance.

You can succeed, other people—those who are succeeding—mature didn't do it, a single extra bone or one more nerve or muscle than you possess it. Their success was not a birthright. It came out of effort—out of action. They used their gifts—as you should. They gained a training that developed and broadened and increased their talents—as you should. They took aim at success and fired away until they hit it.

Look around you! Wherever you eye turns you see young men or women who had no better start than you—with no greater general education or technical training than that you, but who were wise enough to become specially trained in some one special line and who today are going ahead fast and leaving in the rear those who thought special business training unnecessary.

You must not think of success as a kind of Santa Claus and expect it to drop presents into your stockings while you sleep.

You have the present hour—improve it. Use it—use it to give you the best, most thorough and complete training for business as a stenographer and bookkeeper or an operator.

The best way you can improve this very hour that finds you reading this, is to take the first step towards enrolling with us. THAT WILL BE YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARDS A GREAT SUCCESS.

You have made excuses and talked long enough. Your duty to yourself is to come to a decision NOW. Your best interests dictate a decision favoring an enrollment NOW.

When may we expect you? Write America's largest business training school, with 1500 students annually, Tyler Commercial College, Tyler, Texas. Come at once, or if further information is desired phone or write for catalogue.—Adv.

Dinner in the evening—also, Fashion Cafe.

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